I do not misunderstand a few Members who have chosen to give me some advice during the course of the general discussion. Mr. Kunjunni Raja said that I was a son of the soil (I take pride in that), but that I was carrying on the routine administration only, and that I have not got imaginative power, and I have not got schemes and all that sort of thing. I will now count a dozen schemes, schemes on which the former Diwans spent much time, labour and attention. Those schemes are ready at hand. The present Diwan has not to seek for schemes anywhere else or to shut himself up in his study and work out schemes. He has only to take them up one by one and to give effect to them. But we have to see the exact condition of our finance: and from our past failures, we have to take particular precaution before launching ourselves into any fresh schemes. The Chief Engineer has placed before us a modest scheme, and I want to see how this will work. I take the advice in the spirit in which it has been given, but it must not be supposed that matters dealt with in the advice are matters new to me. I have grown grey in the service, and I do not think that I really stand in need of any advice. I always thought that, before I became the Diwan, I knew a good deal of the State, and prided myself that I knew every inch of the Cochin State. But soon after I assumed the Diwanship, I found that my experience and knowledge were limited. There are very many things that I had to learn, and then, I consoled myself with the reflection that we always live to learn, and that the longer we live, the greater the consciousness that we have yet to learn more. Such being the state of things, let us make an honest endeavour to learn in the right way, and let us pursue our course in such a way that it may be said of us that the Cochin Council is by all means a Council carrying on its deliberations in a dignified way, in a way that is useful to the people at large. (*Hear, hear.*) If we achieve this result, I think we have justified our existence in this Council. As regards discussion of communal questions, I think there are platforms outside, and, so long as I retain this place of honour here as President, I will *not* allow any discussion to be carried on, concerning communal matters or appointments based on communal considerations. (*Hear, hear.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Development Departments in the State and representation in the Economic Development Committee.

81. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to mention—

(a) the various development departments in the State;

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(b) whether there is any non-official member from Chittur and Talappalli Taluks in the present Economic Development Committee; and if not,

(c) what is the reason for not giving representation to these taluks;

(d) whether there are no qualified members in those taluks to be members of this Committee; and if there are, why none of them was selected by the Government;

(e) what is the qualification required to be a member of this Committee;

(f) what rule or principle is followed in selecting members to this Committee;

(g) whether there is any one in this Committee from the non-caste Hindu community, and what is the percentage of population of this community in the State;

(h) what is the reason for not selecting a member from this class of people;

(i) whether the Government will add a few more non-official members to this Committee, and if the answer is in the negative, to give reasons for not doing so?

Mr. C. Matthai.—(a) Properly speaking, there can only be one Development Department like the Revenue, P. W. D., etc., and the matters that may be brought within its operations are:—

1. development of irrigation with a view to bring more lands under paddy cultivation by improving the existing sources of irrigation and constructing new ones;

2. extension of the area under cultivation, particularly, by the disafforestation of Reserves not required for forest purposes but fit for food crop cultivation;

3. development of agriculture and matters allied to it;

4. development of the indigenous industries of the State along lines best suited to local conditions;

5. application of the principles of co-operation in the field of agriculture and industries;

6. and such other subjects as may be considered by the Government fit to be referred to the Committee.

(b) No.

(c), (d), (e) and (f). The necessary equipment for the work is a more important consideration than the grant of representation to every taluk and every community. With this in view the Government have selected from among those who are best fitted to give practical advice in regard to the economic development of the country.

(g) No. About 70%.

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(h) Please see the answer to sub-divisions (c) to (f).

(i) There is at present no such proposal. The Government consider that there are enough non-official members in the Committee.

The Economic Development Committee.

82. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) why in the recently constituted Economic Development Committee the Diwan Peishkar, the Conservator of Forests and the Excise Superintendent who are the Heads of three Departments which are responsible for the major portion of the revenue of the State are not included;

(b) why have the Director of Public Instruction and the Chief Engineer, both of whose departments are only a drain, though a useful one, on the revenue of the State, been included in it;

(c) why have the claims of the Diwan Peishkar who represents the department that is responsible for the major portion of the State revenue been overlooked and the Director of Public Instruction been made the President?

Mr. C. Matthai.—(a) Membership in the Committee has nothing to do with collection of revenue.

(b) The Director of Public Instruction is in charge of the Industries Department, and the Chief Engineer, of matters relating to Irrigation. Government consider that their services are valuable to the Committee.

(c) There is no question here of the claims of any person being overlooked. The Diwan Peishkar will equally be a suitable President. Only one President is wanted, and the choice of the Government fell on the Director of Public Instruction who is equally fit to be the President.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar. -The answer given to (a) is "Membership in the Committee has nothing to do with collection of revenue." Has it not to do something with the development of the country?

President.—Yes. The resources of the State must be developed wherever possible. We never considered about the collection of revenue. Of course, there is a very good organised department in charge of it. We are not here concerned with the collection of the revenue.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—That is my question. The Head of that Department which brings the greatest amount of revenue is not included in the list.

President.—All right. He is not included.

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